

Olive Pearl (Smithline) Cotton

January 10, 1926 – January 28, 2015

Olive Pearl (Smithline) Cotton, 89, went home to be with her Lord on January 28, 2015, with her family by her side in her Brush Prairie, WA home. Only recently was she diagnosed with cancer. The Lord limited her suffering and took her quickly.

She was born on January 10, 1926, in her Grandma Marble's house at 29th and Drummond in Vancouver, WA to Pearl (Marble) Smithline. Her father, Charles Smithline, was killed eight days prior to her birth in a tragic, horse-and-wagon accident. She was the youngest of seven children.

Olive grew up in the Manor community, attended Manor Grade School, and graduated from Battle Ground High School in 1943.

She fell in love with Forest "Shorty" Cotton via love letters while he was serving in the U.S. Navy during WWII. They were married in San Diego on June 25, 1944. After the war, they settled in Vancouver and later Brush Prairie where they raised their three children, Les, Gary and Linda.

After their children were grown, Olive worked outside the home at BNW Forest Range Experimental Station and at the U.S. Forest Regional Office.

Shorty and Olive had a small family farm in Brush Prairie where they grew raspberries and pole beans. Olive spent the summers managing the pickers and handling the bookkeeping. Many local families spent time each summer picking berries and beans there.

Genealogy was Olive's favorite pastime. She helped many people locate their relatives, many times connecting them with long, lost relatives and biological families. She also enjoyed helping out many high school class reunion committees with locating their missing classmates. Other interests included the daily crossword puzzle and watching Wheel of Fortune.

Olive is survived by her two sons, Dr. Les Cotton (Linda), Gary Cotton (Edie), daughter, Linda Taylor (Lynn); sister, Arlene Kielman; seven grandchildren, Julie Renk, Christy Goddard, Jon Cotton, Amy Day, Lisa Jeschke, Sarah Collmer, Joe Cotton; 15 great-grandchildren; 10 nephews and 13 nieces.

Olive was preceded in death by: mother, Pearl (Marble) Smithline; husband, Forest "Shorty" Cotton; brothers, Cedric "Clair" Smithline, Elbert "Abe" Smithline, Kenneth Smithline; sisters, Evelyn Hanning Hunt, Nadine LaRue Nerton; two great-grandsons, Grant Cotton, Regan Renk; two nephews and one niece.

Viewing: Tuesday, Feb. 3rd, 4:00-6:00 PM and 7:00-9:00 PM

Layne's Funeral Home, 16 NE Clark Ave. Battle Ground, WA 98604

Interment/Graveside Service: Wednesday, Feb 4th, 2:00 PM, Hospitality - 3:00 PM, Evergreen Memorial Gardens, 1101 NE 112th Ave., Vancouver, WA 98685

Celebration of Life Service: Saturday, February 7th 1:00 PM

Battle Ground Baptist Church, 1110 NW 6th Ave., Battle Ground, WA 98604

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to: ALS of Oregon and SW Washington, 700 NE Multnomah St., Suite 1180, Portland, OR 97232.

